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Kony 2012

Kony 2012. It’s on everyone’s lips, on posters all over town, it’s the video taking over the web. Yet, it seems this worldwide sensation is causing a lot more conflict than anticipated.

“Kony 2012” is part of the NGO, Invisible Children’s, campaign to stop the war lord in Central Africa, Joseph Kony.

Kony is the leader of the terror group, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The main goal of the LRA is to make Uganda, where the movement originated, a theocratic state.

Kony believes all of Uganda should be Christian, and if he succeeds in taking over the Ugandan government he will created a theocratic government based on the Ten Commandments.

Kony fights by establishing an army composed of child soldiers. The LRA invades these children’s homes abducting them in the night and forcing them to kill their parents so they will have no home to return to. Those that oppose the LRA are mutilated, usually by having their ears, nose, or mouth cut off.

You would assume that crimes as heinous as these would be a highlight on the news every night. But this case has been going on for years now, and we hardly ever hear anything about it. That’s where Invisible Children come in.

The campaign “Kony 2012” runs by the slogan “Make Kony famous.” The goal is to spread the word about this horrible man and tell the world what is going on. The only way to make a difference is if enough people support the cause and make a point to show policy makers that we care.

The NGO Invisible Children composed a 30 minute video about who Kony is and what we, as a nation and world, can do to stop him. They have put together an event called “Cover the Night.” At midnight on April 20th thousands of Invisible Children supports will scour the streets of hundreds of cities across the world covering the streets in “Kony 2012” paraphernalia.

When the city wakes in the morning every street corner will be covered with Kony’s name. There will be no escaping the issue.

The US government has 100 troops in Uganda and Central Africa at the moment working with the local troops to try and stop the LRA and Kony. If Kony is not stopped this year and the care for the cause dies down, the US government will pull the troops out of Central Africa and abandon this issue.

That’s where some opposition comes in. Some argue the US shouldn’t involve itself in foreign issues, that Uganda’s government was corrupt already, that most of the money raised goes to film making and not Uganda, that Kony isn’t even in Uganda anymore, and that the LRA’s attacks are on the decline.

All are valid arguments, but there is one thing one must remember. Regardless of the opposition there are still hundreds of innocent children being taken from their beds at night and handed guns, or made into prostitutes. That is not something anyone can knowingly turn a blind eye to.

Kony and the LRA have spread through other nations of Central Africa and the government and Invisible Children are aware of this and have spread aid through areas in need.

The biggest issue the opposition feels strongly about is that a large portion of the money raised by Invisible Children goes into making the informational movies about Kony.

I understand where they are coming from, but aren’t the movies the whole point? The slogan is “Make Kony famous.” He is not going to become famous on his own, and often turn a blind eye to horror around the world. These videos that are well made and powerful make the most impact on a nation.

In just one week a 30 minute video had over 1 million hits.

Invisible Children is accomplishing its goals. Kony is now a household name. Around the world young people are talking about the issue, debating, arguing, and banding together to make a difference.

Kony is now famous.